

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please add the following new paragraphs to the specification at page 23, between lines 26 and 27:

According to one aspect, a process is provided for preparing a modified isocyanate, including the following steps: a) reaction of an isocyanate, which is optionally a polyisocyanate and/or which comprises a group selected from carbamate, urea, biuret, uretidione, isocyanurate, urethane and allophanate groups, with a compound of general formula II; and b) isolation of the product obtained.

According to another aspect, a process is provided for preparing a modified isocyanate, including masked isocyanate functions, including the following steps: either, in any order: a<sub>1</sub>) reaction of an isocyanate, which is optionally a polyisocyanate and/or which comprises a group selected from carbamate, urea, biuret, uretidione, isocyanate, urethane and allophanate groups, with a compound of general formula II; and b) simultaneous or successive reaction with at least one masking compound; or a<sub>2</sub>) simultaneous reaction of an isocyanate with a compound of general formula II and at least one masking compound; and b) isolation of the product obtained.